

Port Authority to Commemorate 20th Anniversary of 1993 World Trade Center Bombing

The Port Authority will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing tomorrow, Feb. 26, with a solemn tribute to the six victims and an unborn child who lost their lives during the attack.

As has been the tradition for the past 20 years, a Catholic Mass will be celebrated at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Lower Manhattan at 10:30 a.m. in memory of those killed. Following the Mass, a moment of silence will be held at 12:18 p.m. near the North Pool on the 9/11 Memorial Plaza, followed by a reading of the names of the victims.

In addition to those who died, more than 1,000 suffered injuries when a truck bomb detonated below the North Tower of the World Trade Center, requiring a mass evacuation of both skyscrapers.

Four men were convicted in March 1994 of carrying out the bombing, and two others, including the mastermind behind the attack, Ramzi Yousef, formerly of Jersey City, were convicted in November 1997.

Omar Abdel-Rahman, another resident of Jersey City who became known as the "blind sheik," was sentenced to a life in prison for his role in the bombing.

Four Port Authority employees and an unborn child died in the attack including 61-year-old senior structural maintenance supervisor Robert Kirkpatrick; 48-year-old chief maintenance supervisor Stephen Knapp; 47-year-old assistant chief mechanical supervisor Bill Macko; and 35-year-old Monica Smith, a pregnant secretary who was scheduled to begin maternity leave the next day.

Also killed in the attack were 45-year-old John DiGiovanni, a dental products salesperson who had parked in the underground parking garage, and 37-year-old Wilfredo Mercado, a receiving agent for the Windows on the World Restaurant.

A granite memorial fountain honoring the victims was dedicated in 1995 on the Austin J. Tobin Plaza, directly above the site of the explosion. The fountain was destroyed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center site, but the six victims are now memorialized on the granite parapets of the North Pool on the 9/11 Memorial Plaza.

Tomorrow, the Port Authority will present a plaque to family members honoring those who died in the 1993 WTC bombing. The agency will locate the plaque in the Port Authority's new headquarters in Tower 4 when the building opens.

"This tragic event, in which six people were senselessly murdered, is a day that will be forever etched in the memories of all Port Authority staff," said Port Authority Chairman David Samson.

“It is fitting that, as time goes on, we continue to stop and reflect on this terrible tragedy and the lives that were needlessly lost.”

“We will always remember the six people, including four members of our own Port Authority family, who died 20 years ago when the terrorists first attacked our home,” said Port Authority Vice Chairman Scott Rechler. “It is our duty to pay tribute to them every year but at the same time look to the future and rebound from this tragic incident.”